

TECHNICAL SUMMARY

During the 2nd quarter, comments were received on the first quarter report from industry observers. The response to those comments are below.

The next (and final) site visit was planned, to a location near Fairfax, VA. No further field work was performed during the previous quarter.

PROGRESS/DISCUSSION

One industry professional had multiple comments on the work performed to date. Below are the responses to a paraphrased version of those comments.

1. The parameters investigated in the current project are but a small sampling of the number of parameters which exist on a pipeline.

In the current study, the opportunity to investigate different types of defects was limited by the type and condition of the coating on the pipeline to be excavated. This illustrates the need for a flexible test site by which different techniques can be judged.

2. The DCVG technique has been proven superior to techniques which involve an AC signal.

From our experience, we agree that DCVG outperforms other methods. However, the fact that AC techniques exist cannot be ignored by the industry, and multiple operators will select them for surveys. All techniques have limitations.

3. The particular DCVG Equipment you use is not as sensitive as other equipment available on the market.

A test site would be helpful to prove this assertion. In addition, as the limitations of existing equipment are discovered and new models, as well as new technologies are developed, there must be a "yardstick" to validate them.

4. The parameters identified as important for the survey, namely defect size and distribution, are less important than the local chemistry from a corrosion perspective.

We agree that some characteristics are more significant than others with regard to threats to integrity, but this is unrelated to the current project. The current project is only about locating coating faults, not about ECDA protocols. The coating condition assessment is just one part of the ECDA process.

General comment: While we agree with many of these comments, the issuer of these comments did not fully understand the limited scope of this project. The need for further investigation into the techniques is clear, but is far beyond the scope of the present work.